to their reports the spillage was self cleaned an did not compare with Ravva crude.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Smuggling of "TEXUS BACATTA"

774. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJ1RAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Taxus Bacatta", a tree which grows naturally in Kashmir forests and *i* educes "Texol", a potent anti cancer drug, is very much sought after by forest mafias, who smuggle its bark and needle-like leaves to different countries of the West as reported in the Indian Express of January 7, 1997;

(b) if so, the steps taken to prevent this exploitation of forest wealth and its smuggling;

(c) whether this tree is becoming fast extinct; *and*

(d) the steps being taken to carry out research on she effectiveness of texol as an anti-cancer drug, and to patent it?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIROMENT AND FORESTS (PROF SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt, of Jammu & Kashmir has informed that *Taxus bacatta* (also known as *Taxus Wallichiana)* is well protected in the Kashmir Vally and there are no reports of its smuggling.

(b) and (c) *Taxus bacatta* and its parte and products is prohibited for export under the current Import-Export policy, unless it is of cultivated origin. It is also included under Appendix II of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which regulates international trade in the species and its parts and products. The species is not becoming fast extinct.

id) Taxoi is a known anti-cancer natural compound isolated from the leaves of Taxus *bacattj* and the stern bark of *Taxus brevifolia* and cannot be patented. However, if a novei method of its synthesis is developed it can be patented. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) are supporting research on Tic sol.

Polluting Tanneries in Naad of Tamil Nadu

775. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS *be* pleased to state:

(a) the names of tanneries which are allowing the untreated effluent waters into the Paiar River in North-Arcot Ambedkar District (NAAD) of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether any action has beers taken by Govemment against those tanneries which are not constructing the Effluent Treatment Plants; and

(c) the names of tanneries running without constructing Effluent Treatment Plant in Meivisharam, Ranipet, Vellore, Ambur and Vaniyatnpadi in North Arcot Ambedkar District of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF P.NVIROMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) There are no tanneries, which have been allowed to discharge the untrc ated effluent into river Palar in North Arcot Ambedkar District of Tamil Nadu.

(b) The Supreme Court and High Court have already issued direction to close the tanneries which have not installed Effluent Treatment Plants either individually or collectively. The tanneries will remain closed until they install Effluent Treatment Plant either individually or collectively and approach the Court for further action.

(c) There are no tanneries running/ operating without the installation of Effluent Treatment Plant in Meivisharam, Ranipet, Vellore, Ambur and Vaniyam-